In Jane Eyre marriage is a big theme in the book. Jane’s idea of marriage has 3 main ideals compatibility, passion, and ethics. She thinks if someone marries for money the love is dead. A marriage for Jane is people who are similar in thinking similar in a finical standpoint and have good moral ideals between a man and a woman. Marriage is very important to Jane because she wants to feel she can provide for herself but have a companion that she loves.

 "He is not to them what he is to me," I thought: "he is not of their kind. I believe he is of mine; – I am sure he is, – I feel akin to him, – I understand the language of his countenance and movements: though rank and wealth sever us widely, I have something in my brain and heart, in my blood and nerves, that assimilates me mentally to him. […] I must, then, repeat continually that we are forever sundered: – and yet, while I breathe and think I must love him." (2.2.85)

In Jane Eyre education is very important for Jane in her life all throughout the book. Education and learning in her early life was the only way she could feel happy and escape from her problems. Jane is kicked out of the Reed’s house for hitting John because she was reading. She was a governess and she taught Adele. She used her painting skill to escape and feel good. In school Jane felt she was loved by Mrs. Temple, Helen, and all the friends she had made

“I had meant to be so good, and to do so much at Lowood; to make so many friends, to earn respect, and win affection. Already I had made visible progress: that very morning I had reached the head of my class; Miss Miller had praised me warmly; Miss Temple had smiled approbation; she had promised to teach me drawing, and to let me learn French, if I continued to make similar improvement two months longer: and then I was well-received by my fellow-pupils; treated as an equal by those of my own age, and not molested by any: now, here I lay again crushed and trodden on; and could I ever rise more?” (1.8.1)

In Jane Eyre the appearances of the people around her is an interesting part of the book. The more beautiful and better looking people are the devious evil ones while the bland or the ugly looking people are more spiritual, caring, and kind. This is interesting because it showed that the more beautiful people were the uglier people on the inside.

"I have a Master to serve whose kingdom is not of this world: my mission is to mortify in these girls the lusts of the flesh; to teach them to clothe themselves with shame-facedness and sobriety, not with braided hair and costly apparel; and each of the young persons before us has a string of hair twisted in plaits which vanity itself might have woven: these, I repeat, must be cut off; think of the time wasted, of – "

Mr. Brocklehurst was here interrupted: three other visitors, ladies, now entered the room. They ought to have come a little sooner to have heard his lecture on dress, for they were splendidly attired in velvet, silk, and furs. The two younger of the trio (fine girls of sixteen and seventeen) had grey beaver hats, then in fashion, shaded with ostrich plumes, and from under the brim of this graceful head-dress fell a profusion of light tresses, elaborately curled; the elder lady was enveloped in a costly velvet shawl, trimmed with ermine, and she wore a false front of French curls. (1.7.32-33)

Jane is in a social class of her own because she looks down on the Victorian hierarchy. Jane is a class of her own because she went to a school left on her own and she found herself a job when most women would get married. Jane is also different because she was a governess and her master proposed to her while most masters won’t even acknowledge his governess. As Jane was getting comfortable with Mr. Rochester she left him because he was married already. Jane puts herself in positions to be in her own social class.

"The fact is, once for all, I don’t wish to treat you like an inferior: that is (correcting himself), I claim only such superiority as must result from twenty years’ difference in age and a century’s advance in experience."

[…]

"I don’t think, sir, you have a right to command me, merely because you are older than I, or because you have seen more of the world than I have – your claim to superiority depends on the use you have made of your time and experience." (1.14.42, 48

**Motifs**

**Fire and Ice**: In Jane Eyre Fire represents the compelling emotion in the characters. However the ice represents the calm and soothing characters that take life for Granit.

Jane Eyre is fire because of: “hitting and yelling at John and Mrs. Reed, she was stubborn, against traditions, and she was feminist.”

Helen Burns is ice: “She was accepting and an instructor to Jane.”

St. John Rivers is ice: “He is a humble missionary, conforming, and doesn’t think about himself.”

Mr. Rochester is fire: “He is willing to sacrifice relationship with his wife, and contrarian.”

**Substitute mothers:**

“She had stood by me instead of mother, governess, and latterly companion”

Jane Eyre experiences women in her life that set good examples or in other words role models to her. The women are strong that she can model herself upon. The women play mother roles to the orphan Jane. There are three women that are female role models to Jane: Bessie, Mrs. Temple, and Helen Burns.

Bessie: When Jane lived with Mrs. Reed she was treated badly, although Bessie the maid helped Jane through her hard times. She babied Jane through the Red room and teached her how to grow up.

Mrs. Temple: She was not just a role model she was a companion and a friend to Jane. Temple hid Jane from pain and possessed charm.

Helen Burns: She was a friend and taught Jane about the world. Helen told Jane about faith and self-worth.

**Independent:**

“ I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will; which I now exert to leave you”.

Throughout the entire book Jane is fending for herself and is alone a lot. For example, she lived at her aunt Reeds house when she was a kid. Her cousins and aunt do not like or want to play with her. She is always alone because she doesn’t do what other women do. When Jane moved to Thornfield Hall she became a social class of her own. Jane is not a servant or maid but is a lower than the estate owner. Jane becomes an independent of her own.

Symbols Of Jane Eyre

The Splintered Chestnut Tree- Exactly a day after Jane Eyre is proposed to by Mr. Rochester under the chestnut tree, the tree is stuck by lightning, nearly cutting the tree in half. This symbolizes Jane Eyre’s and Mr. Rochester’s relationship will be struck by burdens much like how the tree was struck by lightning, this also suggests the upcoming upset for Jane Eyre where she is driven away by Mr. Rochester’s secrets and lies.

The Red Room- The red room is the room where her uncle died, and her aunt, who was supposed to care for her, but was really more wicked then caring, locked her in. In this room Jane goes through a very traumatic state, and at some points becomes unconscious. This symbolizes everything Jane Eyre is supposed to overcome, and the ridicule that causes her to see red, or like written causes her to see the red room.

Drawing Portraits- Throughout this book Jane draws several portraits including one of herself and another of Mr. Rochester. A few times she compares the two, this symbolizes how she feels she is not equal with Mr. Rochester. In fact it is not until after she becomes wealthy with money of her own does she feel equal to Mr. Rochester.

Bertha Mason- Bertha Mason Mr. Rochester first wife. She is show to be insane and violent. She is also a person in Jane Eyre’s life that can be interpreted in many ways. I personally feel she symbolizes are Jane Eyre’s rage, and feelings of the typical gender roles in her society.